CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for implementing a touchscreen user interface for a device, the method comprising:

a) displaying a plurality of items on a touchscreen of a portable electronic device;

b) registering a user input via the touchscreen to enter a magnification display mode;

c) in response to b), providing a magnification area within the touchscreen, the magnification area providing a magnified view of items within the magnification area with respect to items outside the magnification area; and

d) controlling a location of the magnification area with respect to the touchscreen in accordance with a movement command received from a user.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein d) comprises d1) dragging a navigation pointer across the touchscreen as the movement command for controlling the location of the magnification area with respect to the touchscreen.

3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

exiting the magnification display mode when the user stops controlling the location of the magnification area.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the navigation pointer is a stylus.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

in response to b), providing a zoom out view for the touchscreen, wherein the zoom view is configured to increase the number of items that can be displayed on the touchscreen; and

providing the magnification area within the zoom out view.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the power of the zoom out view is user controlled.

7. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

in response to d), scrolling a display area of the touchscreen when the magnification area reaches an edge of the touchscreen.

8. A display screen equipped computer device, comprising:

a display screen for displaying a plurality of items; and

a computer system having a processor coupled to a memory via a bus, the computer system configured to implement a method comprising:

a) displaying a plurality of items on a display screen of a portable electronic device;

b) receiving a user input to enter a magnification display mode;

c) in response to b), providing a magnification area within the display screen, the magnification area providing a magnified view of items originally displayed within or near the magnification area; and

d) controlling a location of the magnification area with respect to the display screen in accordance with a movement command received from the user.

9. The device of Claim 8 wherein said method further comprises:

exiting the magnification display mode when the user stops controlling the location of the magnification area.

10. The device of Claim 8 wherein the movement commands for controlling the location of the magnification area with respect to the display screen comprise a user dragging a navigation pointer across the display screen.

11. The device of Claim 10 wherein the display screen is a touchscreen.

12. The device of Claim 11 wherein the navigation pointer is a stylus.

13. The device of Claim 8 wherein said method further comprises:

in response to b), providing a zoom out view for the display screen, wherein the zoom out view is configured to increase the number of items that can be displayed on the display screen; and

providing the magnification area within the zoom out view.

14. The device of Claim 8 wherein said method further comprises:

in response to d), scrolling a display area of the display screen when the magnification area reaches an edge of the display screen.

15. The device of Claim 8 wherein the device is a personal digital assistant.

16. The device of Claim 8 wherein the device is a cellular telephone.

17. A computer readable media having computer readable code for implementing a method for a touchscreen user interface for a device, the code when executed by a computer system of the device causes the device to implement a method comprising:

a) displaying a plurality of items on a touchscreen of a portable electronic device;

b) registering a user input via the touchscreen to enter a magnification display mode;

c) in response to b), providing a magnification area within the touchscreen, the magnification area providing a magnified view of a portion of said plurality of items; and

d) controlling a location of the magnification area with respect to the touchscreen in accordance with a movement command received from the user.

18. The computer readable media of Claim 17 wherein the movement command for controlling the location of the magnification area with respect to the touchscreen comprises a user dragging a navigation pointer across the touchscreen.

19. The computer readable media of Claim 17 wherein the method further comprises:

existing the magnification display mode when the user stops controlling the location of the magnification area.

20. The computer readable media of Claim 19 wherein the navigation pointer is a stylus.

21. The computer readable media of Claim 17 wherein the method further comprises:

in response to b), providing a zoom out view for touchscreen, wherein the zoom out view is configured to increase the number of items that can be displayed on the touchscreen; and

providing the magnification area within the zoom out view.

22. The computer readable media of Claim 21 wherein the power of the zoom out view is user controlled.

23. The computer readable media of Claim 17 wherein the power of the magnification area is user controlled.

24. The computer readable media of Claim 17 wherein the method further comprises:

in response to d), scrolling a display area of the touchscreen when the magnification area reaches an edge of the touchscreen.